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ALMANACK

For the Year 1695.

With several usefull TABLES, shewing the Rates of purchasing Annuities for 6, 10, or 20 Years, &c. And in how many Years the *Bank of England* may have all the Money, and purchase all the Land in the Kingdom.

W I T H

An Artificial SCHEME (never before known) for the Subjects to be enriched by Taxes, and the Free-holders by Mortgaging their Lands. Whereby it plainly appears, That 100 l. per Annum chargeable with Taxes, being Mortgaged for 2000 l. shall produce 160 l. per Ann. free of Taxes.

With several Resolutions concerning Forging of TITLES: Whereby it plainly appears, That one Man may Cheat another of all his Estate, without doing him any Wrong.

Very Necessary for all Free-holders and Lawyers.

Written by Mr. John Briscoe, at his House in White-Cross-Alley in Middle Moor-fields, and sold and delivered by the Author gratis in the Lobby of the House of Commons.

THIS Volume contains 187 Pages, divided into these Sections:

1. An Epistle to Their Majesties.
2. A Preface.
3. A Computation of the Interest given by Parliament on the late Funds.
4. Proposals for supplying Their Majesties with Money, and enriching the Subjects by Taxes.
5. One single Page in small Print without any Title to it.
6. An Epistle to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament, to tell them that he is going to explain his Proposals.
7. A Dialogue of 70 Pages to explain his Proposals of 41.

8. The Money'd-man's Speech. (Spoken by Mr. Briscoe.)

9. The Freeholders Speech. (Spoken by Mr. Briscoe.)

10. The Merchants Speech. (Spoken by Mr. Briscoe.)

11. A Postscript.

12. A Table of Contents.

13. Another Table of Contents.

14. Three of his own Pamphlets, (Bound up for safe Custody.)

15. Another Postscript.

16. Reasons for a National Land-Bank.

17. Finis: (Till next Year.)

The substance of the Proposals are,
1. That any Man who will convey 1000

per Annum for security of 2000 l. shall have 2000 l. in Bills charged upon his own Estate, without paying any Interest for the same.

2. That he may do what he please with these Bills, and if he cannot make more of them, he may pay them to the King, who shall give him 3 l. per Cent. Interest for them, issuing out of a Fund to be Settled by Parliament, whereby his Land shall be free of Taxes; and so by this means he will gain 60 l. per Annum, by Mortgaging his Land, and clear his Land from Taxes.

And in order to explain these Proposals he introduces a Freeholder asking Philanglus (*Anglus*, Mr. *Anglus*) several Questions about the manner and Office of his Project; and in particular concerning the Titles of Lands: Which being very remarkable, I have here inserted as they stand in Page 91, 92, 93.

Freeholder. But suppose notwithstanding all your precautions, an Estate should be settled by a person who hath no right to settle it; for there may be down-right Titles, and two or three may juggle together to make a Cheat of it, and what must those do who take your Bills of Credit, issued out on such Estates?

Philanglus. Do! All one as if the Title were good, for let who will settle the right Title, the Estate, if once settled, shall be a security for the Bills of Credit issued thereupon.

Freeholder. I find then you have taken care that no person can be loser by the Bills of Credit. But pray what must the poor Freeholder do, whose Estate is Dipped for these Bills of Credit?

Philanglus. He shall have his remedy at Law, against the person who made such undue Settlement; and shall be Entitled to all the profits that have been, or shall be made by virtue of that Settlement.

Freeholder. Then the undue Settlement doth not do any man of his wrong.

Philanglus. Yes; if it should appear that he is the right owner, the Freeholder will be courted to him, all the damage to him will be, what profits he who shall have settled the estate shall have received by virtue of such undue Settlement, and for that he will have his remedy at Law, as hath been said.

Freeholder. True: But suppose he go beyond Seas, out of the Reach of the Law?

Philanglus. If he could produce so good a Title as to entitle the Commissioners, their Council or Agents, he might as well have sold his Estate, and have got his money immediately.

Freeholder. What then? The Freeholder would have had his share.

Philanglus. Yes; but the Purchaser would have lost his money, and a cheat is a cheat, let it be on which side it will. But let it will make it appear, that notwithstanding such undue Settlement, the Freeholder may then sell his estate for as much as he can get.

Freeholder. If you can prove that, you do something.

Philanglus. I will. I suppose you'll grant that an Estate in Land will not yield now above Twenty Years Purchase, and I have proved in my Book that these Life Funds will in time bring

Land to 12 or 14 years Purchase, especially if we should raise more Money by the same methods. Now if my Proposal takes effect, Land will be worth 40 or 50 years purchase, and no man can engage any estate for above 20 years purchase, so that the remainder or Fee will be worth 20, if not 30 years purchase, being as much or more than he can sell it for.

Freeholder. You will do well to make that out.

Philanglus. Sir, I shall do it in the series of our Discourse; but it will be too great a Digression from what we are upon, and therefore for the present I refer you to read the 17, 18, 19 Queries in Page 75, 76.

Freeholder. I am contented.

Now Mr. Philangus: By your leave, I'll have one more Dialogue with you, as well for my own Information as yours; and I'll be the Freeholder, by the name of John, and you shall be Philangus, by the name of Briscoe, and so have at you.

John. Do you propose a Patent for this Project, or will you let all the Freeholds in to it?

Briscoe. I tell you, every one may come in to it that will.

John. Then I fancy every Freeholder in England will come into it.

Briscoe. No doubt of it.

John. Then you must give out Bills of Credit for the Value of all the Lands in the Kingdom, at twenty years Purchase.

Briscoe. So I would have it, as fast as they come to be subscribed, which I call settled.

John. How much do you compute the whole Summ would amount to, for you are good at great Summs?

Briscoe. To about 300 Millions.

John. And what do you say that the King should give 3 l. per Cent. Interest for all these Bills?

Briscoe. Yes, that he should.

John. And should these Lands in respect thereof be for the Taxes.

Briscoe. Yes, yes, I tell you.

John. Then I fancy that the whole 300 Millions would be lent by the Freeholders to the King to gain the 3 l. per Cent. and clear their Lands from Taxes.

Briscoe. All, unless some Pocket Money.

John. How much must the Parliament then grant to the King for a Fund, to answer the 3 l. per Cent. for 300 Millions.

Briscoe. 9 Millions per Annum.

John. How shall this Fund be rais'd?

Briscoe. I leave that to the Parliament, they may raise it by a Land Tax, if they please, for the Freeholders will have Money enough.

John. But you know the Lands will be free from Taxes.

Briscoe. Yes, yes, that's true, but this is the Business of the House of Commons, and I my self have several secrets for raising money, not yet discovered.

John. But let me ask you one Question, If I receive an 100 l. and pay 100 l. will not that (in your way of Accompts) make the Balance equal?

Briscoe. Yes, I grant it.

John. Then I'll make a Bargain with you, (for I know you expect a Reward for your Project) do you make the Subjects Debtors to the Crown for 9 Millions *per Annum*, payable by them in Taxes, and Creditors for 9 Millions *per Annum* payable to them for Interest, and you shall have the overbalance of the Account for your Reward, for giving all their Lands to the King for nothing.

Briscoe. If you say nothing of it, the Freeholders will no more find it out than I did before you told me, nor did I care if they did, for my Reward is bargain'd for already, I am to have 3000*l.* paid down, and 1000*l.* *per Annum* for 1000 years, because the Law abhors Perpetuities, and now by my Project I'll turn this 1000*l.* *per Annum* into 16000*l.* *per Annum* by mortgaging it for 20000*l.* and lending the Bills to the King for 600*l.* *per Annum*, which with the 1000*l.* *per Annum* makes 16000*l.* *per Annum*.

John. Why I fancy then that you may afterwards mortgage this 16000*l.* *per Annum* for 32000*l.* *per Annum*, which will make the whole to be 20560*l.* *per Annum* and to *ad infinitum*: Ha!

Briscoe. Yes, yes, there are vast things to be done by my Project.

John. But do you think the Parliament will not find it out neither?

Briscoe. No, no; I have wrote several Letters to them about it, and they are satisfied, and have taken it as you may see by the Votes for establishing a National Land-Bank, for that is the Name of my Bank.

John. Is that a Land-Bank that lends Money upon Land?

Briscoe. No, no, that's a Money-Bank; just as Scriveners or Monied Men do.

John. How is it then, to lend Land upon Money?

Briscoe. No, no, tis to lend Land upon Land; the Landed-Men are to lend their Land to the Bank, to stand profit and loss.

John. Put one Example, and I shall find it out the better.

Briscoe. Suppose you are to lend a Man 100*l.* at 5*per Cent.* on security of his Estate, I being a Landed Man will lend you 5*per Cent.* as a Collateral Security to pay you back your Money in case the Security fails.

John. And will you do this for nothing?

Briscoe. No, I will have half the Interest of the 5*per Cent.* and to the Monied Man can loose but half his Principal.

John. Nor receive but half his Interest.

Briscoe. But you must never discourse the matter in these Terms, always call it profit and loss, and then they will never understand you.

John. But if the Monied Men lend the Monies, is not this a Money-Bank?

Briscoe. No, no, it is not, if you name it right, if you call it a Bank of Land and Money, then tis a Land-Bank, but if you call it a Bank of Money and Land, then tis a Money-Bank.

John. I understand you; then pray tell me

the Difference between a Land-Bank and a National Land-Bank.

Briscoe. As much difference as is between a Land-Bank and a Money-Bank. They in the Land-Bank issue out Bills charged on particular Estates, conveyed to them for securities of Monies lent by them; but we in the National Land-Bank issue out our Bills in this Form, viz. This Bill chargeth the Lands settled in the National Land-Bank for payment of 100*l.*

John. Why have you any Lands settled in your Bank.

Briscoe. They are Subscribed, which I call Settled. Nor is it necessary that all our Freeholders should have Lands; it is enough for us, if they can but tell us where other mens Lands ly, and then we know how to charge them.

John. How do you do this?

Briscoe. We have Land-finders on purpose; one of our Subscribers brought us in 12000*l.* *per Annum* of other Mens Estates, who knew nothing of it.

John. Why! And shall this bind the Lands?

Briscoe. Bind the Land! Yes: Why, if we charge a Bill on Lands, settled in the National Land-Bank, this shall, if we please, charge all the Lands in the Nation for payment.

John. This is what puzzles me most.

Briscoe. Why should you raise Scruples, when the Freeholder, who is to suffer the wrong is satisfied, *Volens non sit injurius*. And you see by my Dialogue I have made him say *Content*.

John. I am satisfied: And I believe now your Project is thoroughly understood.

Briscoe. Ay! But I'll fetch my Books over again, and talk about *Annuities*, and refer to my own *Queries* and *Pages*, backwards and forwards, and confound it so that it shall be as unintelligible as ever.

John. Nay, one of your own *Explanatory Dialogues* would confound it more than any thing.

Briscoe. Ay, ay: I'll see whether the Parliament will suffer Epistles to the King, Lords and Commons, and matters of Freeholders Taxes and Titles, to be turned into Jest.

John. Ay, and shew them how this *Almanack* hath transposed your Method, by placing the Jest at the Top, which, in your Book, lies at the Bottom. But what do you expect you in te *Lobby* to-morrow Morning with your Reply.

Briscoe. By Nine of the Clock: I'll go directly to the Printers, and write as fast as it comes into my Head.

John. Ay, and if you could spare that Ceremony of passing through your Head, were the better; however you'll have the last word, for the Author of this never writes twice upon the same Subject.

Briscoe. Give me your hand for that, and I'll write that which he shall never answer.

John.

Witness my Hand,

H. C.